

LEGISLATION IN THE 104TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION

To date 13 out of 18, or 72 percent, of the bills considered under rules in the 2nd session of the 104th Congress have been considered under an irregular procedure which circumvents the standard committee procedure. They have been brought to the floor without any committee reporting them. They are as follows:

H.R. 1643—To Authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (MFN) to the products of Bulgaria.

H.J. Res. 134—Making Continuing Appropriations for FY 1996.

H.R. 1358—Conveyance of National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory at Gloucester, Massachusetts.

H.R. 2924—The Social Security Guarantee Act.

H.R. 3021—To Guarantee the Continuing Full Investment of Social Security and Other Federal Funds in Obligations of the United States.

H.R. 3019—A Further Downpayment Toward a Balanced Budget.

H.R. 2703—The Effective Death Penalty and Public Safety Act of 1996.

H.J. Res. 165—Making Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 1996.

H.R. 125—The Crime Enforcement and Second Amendment Restoration Act of 1996.

H.R. 3136—The Contract With America Advancement Act of 1996.

H.J. Res. 159—Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment.

H.R. 1675—National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1995.

H.J. Res. 175—Making Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 1996.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, but I reserve the balance of my time, pending my very dear friend's action on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say I have no further requests for time and I urge support of this rule. Let us move ahead. We are now down to 12 hours and 10 minutes until the Government is scheduled to shut down. We have moved ahead with this rule rapidly. Let us move ahead just as quickly with the continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge strong support of this rule and of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORRECTING TECHNICAL ERRORS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 735, ANTITERRORISM AND EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1996

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 55) to correct the enrollment of the bill S. 735, to prevent and punish acts of ter-

rorism, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Is there is objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although we do not object to the substance of this concurrent resolution, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS], the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, who could not be here because of a Committee on the Judiciary markup, would like to note the deficiencies in the process leading up to this unanimous-consent request. The ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary was not informed of the problems in this bill, nor was he included in the discussions as to how to fix this bill.

The support of the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] was enlisted only after the text of the resolution was agreed to. So, in the future, if the majority seeks a unanimous-consent request, we expect the Democrats to be consulted at the beginning of the process, and not at the end.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is their objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 55

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That the Secretary of the Senate, in the enrollment of the bill (S. 735) shall make the following corrections:

(a) In the table of contents of the bill, strike the item relating to section 431 and redesignate the items relating to sections 432 through 444 as relating to sections 431 through 443 respectively.

(b) Strike section 1605(g) of title 28, United States Code, proposed to be added by section 221 of the bill, and insert the following:

"(g) LIMITATION ON DISCOVERY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—(A) Subject to paragraph (2), if an action is filed that would otherwise be barred by section 1604, but for subsection (a)(7), the court, upon request of the Attorney General, shall stay any request, demand, or order for discovery on the United States that the Attorney General certifies would significantly interfere with a criminal investigation or prosecution, or a national security operation, related to the incident that gave rise to the cause of action, until such time as the Attorney General advises the court that such request, demand, or order will no longer so interfere.

"(B) A stay under this paragraph shall be in effect during the 12-month period beginning on the date on which the court issues the order to stay discovery. The court shall renew the order to stay discovery for additional 12-month periods upon motion by the United States if the Attorney General certifies that discovery would significantly interfere with a criminal investigation or prosecution, or a national security operation, related to the incident that gave rise to the cause of action.

"(2) SUNSET.—(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), no stay shall be granted or continued in

effect under paragraph (1) after the date that is 10 years after the date on which the incident that gave rise to the cause of action occurred.

"(B) After the period referred to in subparagraph (A), the court, upon request of the Attorney General, may stay any request, demand, or order for discovery on the United States that the court finds a substantial likelihood would—

"(i) create a serious threat of death or serious bodily injury to any person;

"(ii) adversely affect the ability of the United States to work in cooperation with foreign and international law enforcement agencies in investigating violations of United States law; or

"(iii) obstruct the criminal case related to the incident that gave rise to the cause of action or undermine the potential for a conviction in such case.

"(3) EVALUATION OF EVIDENCE.—The court's evaluation of any request for a stay under this subsection filed by the Attorney General shall be conducted ex parte and in camera.

"(4) BAR ON MOTIONS TO DISMISS.—A Stay of discovery under this subsection shall constitute a bar to the granting of a motion to dismiss under rules 12(b)(6) and 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

"(5) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall prevent the United States from seeking protective orders or asserting privileges ordinarily available to the United States."

(c) In section 620G(a), proposed to be inserted after section 620F of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, by section 325 of the bill, strike "may" and insert "shall".

(d) In section 620H(a), proposed to be inserted after section 620G of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, by section 326 of the bill—

(1) strike "may" and insert "shall";

(2) strike "shall be provided"; and

(3) insert "section" before "6(j)".

(e) In section 219, proposed to be inserted in title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act, by section 302 of the bill—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), insert "foreign" before "terrorist organization";

(2) in subsection (a)(2)(A)(i), strike "an" before "organization under" and insert "a foreign";

(3) in subsection (a)(2)(C), insert "foreign" before "organization"; and

(4) in subsection (a)(4)(B), insert "foreign" before "terrorist organization".

(f) In section 2339B(g), proposed to be added at the end of chapter 113B of title 18, United States Code, by section 303 of the bill, strike paragraph (5) and redesignate paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively.

(g) In section 2332d(a), proposed to be added to chapter 113B of title 18, United States Code, by section 321(a) of the bill—

(1) strike "by the Secretary of State" and insert "by the Secretary of the Treasury";

(2) strike "with the Secretary of the Treasury" and insert "with the Secretary of State"; and

(3) add the words "the government of" after "engaged in a financial transaction with".

(h) At the end of section 321 of the bill, add the following:

"(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall become effective 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act."

(i) In sections 414(b) and 422(c) of the bill, strike "90" and insert "180".

(j) In section 40A(b), proposed to be added to chapter 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, by section 330 of the bill strike "essential" and insert "important".

(k) In section 40A(b), proposed to be added to chapter 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, by section 330 of the bill, strike "security".

(l) Strike section 431 of the bill and redesignate sections 432 through 444 as sections 431 through 443, respectively.

(m) In section 511(c) of the bill, strike "amended—" and all that follows through "(2)" and insert "amended".

(n) In section 801 of the bill, strike "subject to the concurrence of" and insert "in consultation with".

(o) In section 443, by striking subsection (d) in its entirety and inserting:

"(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall become effective no later than 60 days after the publication by the Attorney General of implementing regulations that shall be published on or before January 1, 1997."

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 411, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 175) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 411, House Joint Resolution 175 is modified by striking title II.

The text of the joint resolution, as modified, is as follows:

H.J. RES. 175

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 101. Public Law 104-99 is further amended by striking out "April 24, 1996" in sections 106(c), 112, 126(c), 202(c), and 214 and inserting in lieu thereof "April 25, 1996"; and that Public Law 104-92 is further amended by striking out "April 24, 1996" in section 106(c) and inserting in lieu thereof "April 25, 1996".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 175, and that I may be permitted to include extraneous and tabular material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that it will not be necessary to use anywhere near the time allotted for this measure. This is a 24-hour continuing resolution intended primarily to allow the nego-

tiators in the conference between the House and Senate Republicans and Democrats to finalize the negotiations with the White House and Mr. Panetta, the Chief of Staff, on the omnibus wrap-up appropriations bill for fiscal year 1996.

This wrap-up bill would conclude all of the remaining as yet unsigned into law subcommittee bills, namely Commerce-Justice-State, Interior, VA-HUD, Labor-Health, and the District of Columbia. The intent would be that, because I think that we have narrowed the issues now, within the next few hours hopefully we can finalize the deliberations on all of the remaining outstanding issues of difference between the White House and both houses of Congress, and that we will indeed have a bill ready to bring to the House of Representatives tomorrow morning after going to the Committee on Rules.

That is my expectation at this point. There are still some real and meaningful differences, between all the parties, between the Houses, and between the Congress and the White House, but my expectation is those differences will be resolved in a matter of hours and that we will have a final agreement to bring here to the floor. If that is not to be, then we will have other statements to make later on, but that is our plan at this point. I would hope that, frankly, everything I have said will come to pass.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, this is, what, the 13th continuing resolution? Let me simply say that if this continuing resolution were for longer than 1 day, I would not support it, because it would be yet another confession of futility on the part of the Congress. But the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the distinguished chairman of the committee, is correct. We are that close to having agreement on the omnibus continuing resolution, which would finally, finally, put to bed all of the appropriation issues for the fiscal year into which we are now halfway.

Let me just say that I think Members have had a right to be concerned, because school districts are being squeezed. You still have the problem of some 40,000 title I teachers who are about to be pink-slipped if there is not a resolution of the problem.

The conferees have met ad nauseam the last 3 days, actually since Friday, and I think at this point virtually every issue seems to be resolved except the issues surrounding the environmental riders and two other issues, which I expect can be resolved.

So it is my hope that when we reconvene meetings with Mr. Panetta at 2 or 2:30 today, that we will have agreement. To do so, the White House has made clear the remaining environmental riders, which are simply causing problems, will need to be dropped, or at least reshaped in a way that allows the President to protect the public interest as he sees it.

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And if that is accomplished, then we can bring that bill to the floor and finally finish this and move on to next year's appropriation matters.

It is my deep hope that that will, in fact, occur, but I thought it was going to happen yesterday but at 9 o'clock last night we were further apart than we were at 5 o'clock in the afternoon which I find interesting and incredible and frustrating but I guess it sometimes happens in legislative bodies.

So I simply hope that cooler heads will prevail and we will wind up with those riders being dropped so that we can bring legislation to the floor which solves the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLECZKA].

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague for yielding time to me. When the rule was before the body to bring up this continuing resolution, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] was very lengthy and eloquent in his support of a provision that was in the resolution but was struck by adoption of the rule. That provision had to deal with the resolve for a problem we are facing with the savings and loan insurance fund, which is the SAIF fund.

It was kind of surprising to me that the gentleman from California spoke in strong support of it even though the Committee on Rules that he served on did pull it out of the product that we are ready to vote on the floor.

I would like the chairman of the committee, Mr. LIVINGSTON, to possibly yield for a question, because I am aware that he also supported this provision. Is it possible that the long-term continuing resolution that we should be seeing hopefully tomorrow would contain a fix for that very knotty problem?

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLECZKA. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman it is not my intention to put that on the bill tomorrow. We have a very tough situation on a bill that has been pounded out over months and months, and, frankly, I do not think it can bear any more weight. So I would, frankly, be not inclined to put it on.

Mr. KLECZKA. Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems surprising to me that the gentleman from California, who serves on the Committee on Rules, was supporting a provision although he supported pulling it out of this resolution. If I had known that was the opinion of the chair of the committee, I surely would have tried to object to adoption of the rule, which we have just adopted in the House, and called for a roll call to see if we could not retain that in this short-term CR.

It seems it is an important issue, which I think we have to address before the end of the session, because it will